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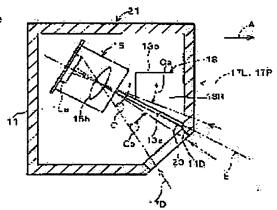
KATO HIDEO

(54) ON-VEHICLE IMAGING DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an on-vehicle imaging device capable of effectively suppressing mixing of lights from right and left imaging areas on a photodetecting surface of an imaging element with a light from a lower or upper side imaging area and improving an image quality.

SOLUTION: This on-vehicle imaging device 21 comprises a light shielding plate 23 for dividing optical paths of lights 17L and 17R from left and right imaging areas, reflected by side faces 13L and 13R of a prism 13 and incident to an imaging lens 15b in a case 11; and an optical path of a light 17D from a lower side imaging area, incident to the lens 15b at an incident surface side of the lens 15b.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] An image formation lens and the image sensor which picturizes the image by which image formation was carried out with said image formation lens, The prism on which two side faces of right and left of the three side faces which are established in the plane-of-incidence side of said image formation lens, have a triangular cross-section configuration, and constitute said triangle function as a reflector, While being faced and installed in the preparation ****** exterior, and each light which carries out incidence to the direction of a transverse plane of this mounted image pick-up equipment from the 1st of right and left and the 2nd image pick-up field being reflected by the side face of said right and left of said prism and carrying out incidence to said image sensor through said image formation lens. It is directly introduced into said image formation lens, without the light which carries out incidence from a lower part or the 3rd upper image pick-up field to said direction of a transverse plane minding said prism. Are mounted image pick-up equipment by which incidence is carried out to said image sensor through the image formation lens, and it sets to the plane-of-incidence side of said image formation lens. Mounted image pick-up equipment characterized by establishing a protection-from-light means to divide the optical path of each of said light from said 1st [the] which it is reflected by said prism and carries out incidence to said image formation lens, and the 2nd [said] image pick-up field, and the optical path of said light from the 3rd [said] image pick-up field which carries out incidence to said image formation lens.

[Claim 2] Said protection-from-light means is mounted image pick-up equipment according to claim 1 characterized by being the gobo prepared in the inferior-surface-of-tongue [of said prism], or top-face side.

[Claim 3] Said protection-from-light means is mounted image pick-up equipment according to claim 1 characterized by being the light-shielding film prepared in the inferior surface of tongue or top face of said prism.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

0001

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the mounted image pick-up equipment which picturizes simultaneously the image pick-up field of three directions where the car circumferences differ.

[Description of the Prior Art] As this kind of conventional mounted image pick-up equipment, there are some which are shown in drawing 2 and drawing 3. This mounted image pick-up equipment 1 is faced and installed in the car exterior, and picturizes simultaneously the bottom or the 3rd upper (here under) image pick-up field to the 1st of right and left and the 2nd image pick-up field, and the direction A of a transverse plane to the direction A of a transverse plane of this mounted image pick-up equipment 1. The image pick-up field of the three directions is set as the dead angle field of the car circumference which cannot be easily visible from an operator, and the dead angle field of the right and left [as a suitable activity gestalt of such mounted image pick-up equipment 1, install this mounted image pick-up equipment 1 in the car front end section, and] by the side of the front of a car with that mounted image pick-up equipment and a front — it is possible to picturize the dead angle field by the side of the slanting lower part of the car front end section which becomes the shadow of a nose and cannot be easily visible from an operator etc.

[0003] As shown in the case 11 of the protection-from-light nature of this image pick-up equipment 1 at <u>drawing 2</u> and <u>drawing 3</u>, transparency aperture 11D is prepared in right-and-left both sides to the direction A of a transverse plane in that front section at the transparency apertures 11L and 11R of a couple, and the slant bottom. The transparency apertures 11L and 11R on either side are for introducing each light 17L and 17R from an image pick-up field on either side, and lower transparency aperture 11D is for introducing optical 17D from a lower image pick-up field.

[0004] In this case 11, the prism 13 with which plane view has a triangular cross-section configuration While receipt arrangement is carried out with the position which turned to the on either side transparency aperture 11L and 11R side two prism side faces 13L and 13R of right and left of the three side faces which turn the vertical-angle side to the anterior part (<u>drawing 2</u> upper part of a case 11) of a case 11, and constitute said triangle, respectively Hold arrangement of the image pick-up unit 15 is carried out so that it may be located in the tooth-back side of the prism 13.

[0005] The image pick-up unit 15 is equipped with image sensor (CCD etc.) 15a and image formation lens 15b. As the image pick-up optical axis B which is an optical axis of image formation lens 15b turns [unit / 15 / image pick-up] to a slanting lower part to the direction A of a transverse plane, it is installed. And image sensor 15a picturizes the image in which image formation was carried out by image formation lens 15b.

[0006] Here, prism 13 is installed in the upper part side of the optical path with the position which stood straight at the right angle to the direction A of a transverse plane so that the optical path of optical 17D which carries out incidence towards image formation lens 15b from lower transparency aperture 11D may be avoided, and let underside 13a of prism 13 be the inclined plane which serves as a declivity towards a front side almost in accordance with the optical path of optical 17D. Here, in the field of the upper half of all the field-of-view angles C over the vertical direction of image sensor 15a and image formation lens 15b The field-of-view angle calcium for picturizing an image pick-up field on either side is set up, and the field-of-view angle Cb for picturizing a lower image pick-up field in the field of the lower half of all the field-of-view angles C is set up. The tilt angle of underside 13a of prism 13 and the installation location of prism 13 are set up so that underside 13a may meet the image pick-up optical axis B.

[0007] And incidence of each light 17L and 17R which carried out incidence through the transparency apertures 13L and 13R from the image pick-up field on either side is carried out into prism 13 through the prism side faces 13L and 13R on either side, and total reflection is carried out to the image formation lens 15b side on the prism side faces 13L and 13R of an opposite hand, they carries out outgoing radiation out of prism 13, and carries out incidence to image sensor 15a through image formation lens 15b. On the other hand, optical 17D which carried out incidence through transparency aperture 11D from the lower image pick-up field is directly introduced into image formation lens 15b, without minding prism 13, and carries out incidence to image sensor 15a through image formation lens 15b. The image of the image pick-up field of right and left and the three directions of [lower] is picturized by single image sensor 15a by this.

[0008] It is inputted into the predetermined processing section 5, predetermined processing of a reversal process etc. is performed, the picture signal outputted from image sensor 15a is given to the mounted display 7, and the image of each image pick-up field picturized by image sensor 15a is displayed with a display 7. Here, the viewing area on the screen of the display sending to the prosecutor 7 is divided into three subregions 7L, 7R, and 7D, the image of a left-hand side image pick-up field is displayed on upper left subregion 7L, the image of a right-hand side image pick-up field is displayed on lower image pick-up field is displayed on lower subregion 7D. [0009]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] however, with above-mentioned conventional mounted image pick-up equipment 1 Since a means to divide the optical path of each light 17L and 17R from an image pick-up field on either side and the optical path of optical 17D from a lower image pick-up field is not established at all in the case 11, In the light-receiving side top of image sensor 15a under the optical path of Light 17L, 17R, and 17D, and the effect of refraction of image formation lens 15b The light 17L and 17R from an image pick-up field on either side carries out incidence into the light-receiving field which optical 17D from a lower image pick-up field should carry out incidence essentially, or On the contrary, the inconvenience optical 17D from a lower image pick-up field carries out [inconvenience] incidence into the light-receiving field which the light 17L and 17R from an image pick-up field on either side should carry out incidence essentially arises. such light 17L and 17R and optical 17D -- being mixed -- degradation of image quality is caused.

[0010] Then, this invention takes an example by said trouble, and can control effectively mixture **** with the light from the image pick-up field of the right and left on the light-receiving side of an image sensor, the bottom, or an upside, and it aims at offering the mounted image pick-up equipment which can aim at improvement in image quality.

[Means for Solving the Problem] The image sensor with which the technical means for attaining said object picturize the image to which image formation was carried out with the image formation lens and said image formation lens, The prism on which two side faces of right and left of the three side faces which are established in the plane-of-incidence side of said image formation lens, have a triangular cross-section configuration, and constitute said triangle function as a reflector, While being faced and installed in the preparation ****** exterior, and each light which carries out incidence to the direction of a transverse plane of this mounted image pick-up equipment from the 1st of right and left and the 2nd image pick-up field being reflected by the side face of said right and left of said prism and carrying out incidence to said image sensor through said image formation lens. It is directly introduced into said image formation lens, without the light which carries out incidence from a lower part or the 3rd upper image pick-up field to said direction of a transverse plane minding said prism. Are mounted image pick-up equipment by which incidence is carried out to said image sensor through the image formation lens, and it sets to the plane-of-incidence side of said image formation lens. It is characterized by establishing a protection-from-light means to divide the optical path of each of said light from said 1st [the] which it is reflected by said prism and carries out incidence to said image formation lens.

[0012] Preferably, as for said protection-from-light means, it is good that it is the gobo prepared in the underside [of said prism] or top-face side.

[0013] Moreover, as for said protection-from-light means, it is good preferably that it is the light-shielding film prepared in the underside or top face of said prism.

[0014]

[Embodiment of the Invention] <u>Drawing 1</u> is drawing of longitudinal section showing the configuration of the mounted image pick-up equipment concerning 1 operation gestalt of this invention. The point that the mounted image pick-up equipment 21 concerning this operation gestalt differs from the mounted image pick-up equipment 1 shown in above-mentioned <u>drawing 2</u> and above-mentioned <u>drawing 3</u> substantially is only a point of having formed the gobo (protection-from-light means) 23 mentioned later, gives the same reference mark to a corresponding part, and omits the overlapping explanation.

[0015] With this mounted image pick-up equipment 21, the gobo 23 which divides the optical path of each light 17L and 17R from the image pick-up field of the right and left which it is reflected in the plane-of-incidence side of image formation lens 15b within a case 11 by the prism side faces 13L and 13R of prism 13, and carry out incidence to image formation lens 15b, and the optical path of optical 17D from the image pick-up field of the bottom which carries out incidence to image formation lens 15b is formed. With this operation gestalt, the gobo 23 is fixed and installed in underside 13a (or top-face 13b) of prism 13. That is, as a gobo 23 divides up and down between the field-of-view angles Cb for picturizing the image pick-up field of the field-of-view angle calcium for picturizing an image pick-up field on either side, and the bottom, it is arranged in the plane-of-incidence side of image formation lens 15b.

[0016] And duplication like before of the incidence field of the light 17L and 17R from the image pick-up field of the right and left on the light-receiving side of image sensor 15a and the incidence field of optical 17D from a downward image pick-up field can be effectively controlled now by such configuration.

[0017] As mentioned above, according to this operation gestalt, with the gobo 23 concerning this operation gestalt, mixture **** of the light 17L and 17R from the image pick-up field of the right and left on the light-receiving side of image sensor 15a and optical 17D from a lower image pick-up field can be controlled effectively, and improvement in image quality can be aimed at. [0018] Moreover, the optical path of the light 17L and 17R from an image pick-up field on either side and the optical path of optical 17D from a lower image pick-up field can be certainly divided by adjusting the size and the configuration of a gobo 23. [0019] In addition, a light-shielding film may be prepared in underside 13a or top-face 13b of prism 13 as a modification of this operation gestalt instead of forming a gobo 23. By this, the cutback of components mark, the number of erectors, etc. can be aimed at as compared with the case where a gobo 21 is formed separately from prism 13. [0020]

[Effect of the Invention] The optical path of each light from the 1st [which according to invention according to claim 1 it is reflected in the plane-of-incidence side of an image formation lens by prism, and carries out incidence to an image formation lens], and 2nd image pick-up fields, Since a protection-from-light means to divide the optical path of the light from the 3rd image pick-up field which carries out incidence to an image formation lens is established, With this protection-from-light means, mixture **** with the light from the image pick-up field of the light from the image pick-up field of the right and left on the light-receiving side of an image sensor, the bottom, or an upside can be controlled effectively, and improvement in image quality can be aimed at.

[0021] According to invention according to claim 2, the optical path of the light from an image pick-up field on either side and the optical path of the light from the image pick-up field of the bottom or an upside can be certainly divided by adjusting the size and the configuration of a gobo.

[0022] Since a protection-from-light means is constituted by the light-shielding film prepared in the underside or top face of prism according to invention according to claim 3, as compared with the case where a gobo is prepared separately from prism, the cutback of components mark, the number of erectors, etc. can be aimed at.

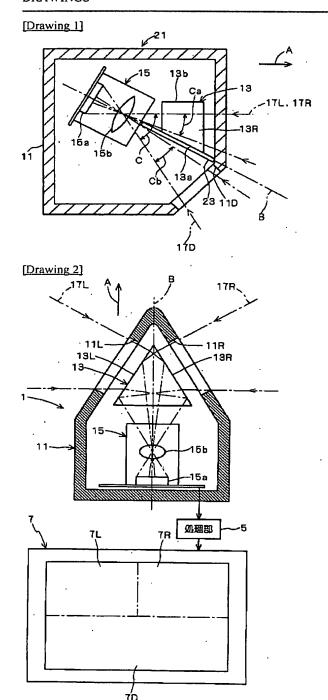
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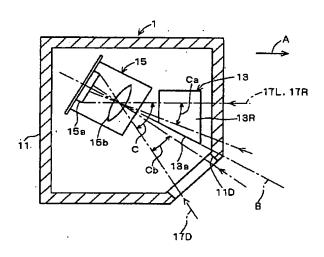
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DRAWINGS



[Drawing 3]



[Translation done.]

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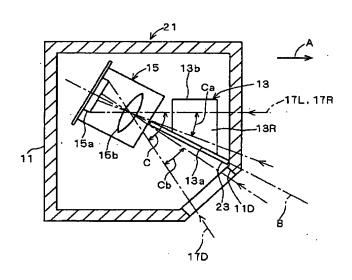
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(54) 【発明の名称】 車載損像装置

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 撮像素子の受光面上における左右の撮像領域からの光と下または上側の撮像領域からの光との混じり合いを効果的に抑制でき、画質の向上が図れる車載撮像装置を提供する。

【解決手段】 この車載撮像装置21では、ケース11内における結像レンズ15bの入射面側において、プリズム13のプリズム側面13L,13Rによって反射されて結像レンズ15bに入射する左右の撮像領域からの各光17L,17Rの光路と、結像レンズ15bに入射する下側の撮像領域からの光17Dの光路とを分割する遮光板23が設けられている。



【特許請求の範囲】

前記結像レンズの入射面側において、前記プリズムによって反射されて前記結像レンズに入射する前記第1および前記第2の撮像領域からの前記各光の光路と、前記結像レンズに入射する前記第3の撮像領域からの前記光の光路とを分割する遮光手段が設けられることを特徴とす 20 る車 戦 撮像装置。

【 請求項 2 】 前記遮光手段は、前記プリズムの下面側または上面側に設けられた遮光板であることを特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の車載撮像装置。

【 請求項3 】 前記遮光手段は、前記プリズムの下面または上面に設けられた遮光膜であることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の車載撮像装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、車両周辺の異なる 3方向の撮像領域を同時に撮像する車載撮像装置に関す るものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】この種の従来の車載撮像装置としては、図2および図3に示すものがある。この車載撮像装置1は、車両外部に面して設置され、この車載撮像装置1の正面方向Aに対して左右の第1および第2の撮像領域と、正面方向Aに対して下または上側(ここでは下側)の第3の撮像領域とを同時に撮像するようになっている。その3方向の撮像領域は、運転者から見えにくい車両周辺の死角領域に設定される。そして、このような車載撮像装置1の好適な使用形態としては、この車載撮像装置1を車両前端部に設置し、その車載撮像装置によって、車両の前方側における左右の死角領域、およびフロントノーズの影になって運転者から見えにくい車両前端部の斜め下方側の死角領域を撮像することなどが考えられる。

【0003】この撮像装置1の遮光性のケース11には、図2および図3に示すように、その前面部における正面方向Aに対して左右両側に一対の透過窓11L,1

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1R、斜め下側に透過窓11Dが設けられている。左右の透過窓11L、11Rは、左右の撮像領域からの各光17L、17Rを導入するためのものであり、下側の透過窓11Dは、下側の撮像領域からの光17Dを導入するためのものである。

【0004】このケース11内には、平面視が三角形の断面形状を有するプリズム13が、その頂角側をケース11の前部(図2ではケース11の上部)に向けかつ前記三角形を構成するその3つの側面のうちの左右の2つのプリズム側面13L,13Rをそれぞれ左右の透過窓11L,11R側に向けた姿勢で収納配設されるとともに、そのプリズム13の背面側に位置するように撮像ユニット15が収容配設される。

【0005】撮像ユニット15には、撮像素子(CCD等)15aと、結像レンズ15bとが備えられる。撮像ユニット15は、結像レンズ15bの光軸である撮像光軸Bが正面方向Aに対して斜め下方に向くようにして設置されている。そして、撮像素子15aは、結像レンズ15bによって結像された像を撮像する。

【0006】ここで、プリズム13は、下側の透過窓11Dから結像レンズ15bに向けて入射する光17Dの光路を避けるように、その光路の上方側に正面方向Aに対して直角に直立した姿勢で設置されており、プリズム13の下面13aは、光17Dの光路にほぼ沿って前方側に向けて下り傾斜となる傾斜面とされている。ここでは、撮像素子15aおよび結像レンズ15bの上下方向に対する全撮像視野角Cのうちの上半分の領域内に、左右の撮像領域を撮像するための撮像視野角Caが設定され、全撮像視野角Cのうちの下半分の領域内に下側の撮像領域を撮像するための撮像視野角Cbが設定されており、プリズム13の下面13aが撮像光軸Bに沿うように設定されている。

【0007】そして、左右の撮像領域から透過窓13 L,13Rを介して入射した各光17L,17Rは、左右のプリズム側面13L,13Rを介してプリズム13 内に入射し、反対側のプリズム側面13L,13Rで結像レンズ15b側に全反射されてプリズム13外に出射し、結像レンズ15bを介して撮像素子15aに入射する。一方、下側の撮像領域から透過窓11Dを介して入射した光17Dは、プリズム13を介さずに結像レンズ15bに直接導入され、結像レンズ15bを介して撮像素子15aに入射する。これによって、左右および下側の3方向の撮像領域の画像が、単一の撮像素子15aによって撮像される。

【0008】撮像素子15aから出力される画像信号は、所定の処理部5に入力され反転処理等の所定の処理が施されて車載の表示装置7に与えられ、撮像素子15aによって撮像された各撮像領域の画像が表示装置7によって表示される。ここでは、表示送致7の画面上の表

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示領域は、3つの部分領域7L,7R,7Dに分割されており、左上の部分領域7Lに左側の撮像領域の画像が表示され、右上の部分領域7Rに右側の撮像領域の画像が表示され、下側の部分領域7Dに下側の撮像領域の画像が表示される。

[0009]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上述の従来の車城撮像装置1では、ケース11内において左右の撮像領域からの各光17L,17Rの光路と下側の撮像領域からの光17Dの光路とを分割する手段がなんら設けられていないため、撮像素子15aの受光面上において、光17L,17R,17Dの光路および結像レンズ15bの屈折の影響により、本来下側の撮像領域からの光17Dが入射すべき受光領域内に左右の撮像領域からの光17L,17Rが入射すべき受光領域内に下側の撮像領域からの光17L,17Rが入射すべき受光領域内に下側の撮像領域からの光17Dが入射してしまったりする不都合が生じる。このような光17L,17Rと光17Dの混じり合いは、画質の劣化を招く。【0010】そこで、木発明は前記問題点に終る場份

【0010】そこで、本発明は前記問題点に鑑み、撮像 20 素子の受光面上における左右の撮像領域からの光と下または上側の撮像領域からの光との混じり合いを効果的に抑制でき、画質の向上が図れる車載撮像装置を提供することを目的とする。

[0011]

【課題を解決するための手段】前記目的を達成するため の技術的手段は、結像レンズと、前記結像レンズによっ て結像された像を撮像する撮像素子と、前記結像レンズ の入射面側に設けられ、三角形の断面形状を有し、前記 三角形を構成する3つの側面のうちの左右の2つの側面 が反射面として機能するプリズムと、を備えて車両外部 に面して設置され、この車載撮像装置の正面方向に対し て左右の第1および第2の撮像領域から入射する各光が 前記プリズムの前記左右の側面によって反射されて前記 結像レンズを介して前記撮像素子に入射されるととも に、前記正面方向に対して下方または上方の第3の撮像 領域から入射する光が前記プリズムを介さずに前記結像 レンズに直接導入され、その結像レンズを介して前記撮 像素子に入射されるようになっている車載撮像装置であ って、前記結像レンズの入射面側において、前記プリズ 40 ムによって反射されて前記結像レンズに入射する前記第 1および前記第2の撮像領域からの前記各光の光路と、 前記結像レンズに入射する前記第3の撮像領域からの前 記光の光路とを分割する遮光手段が設けられることを特

【0012】好ましくは、前記遮光手段は、前記プリズムの下面側または上面側に設けられた遮光板であるのがよい。

【0013】また、好ましくは、前記遮光手段は、前記 プリズムの下面または上面に設けられた遮光膜であるの 50 4

がよい。

[0014]

【発明の実施の形態】図1は本発明の一実施形態に係る 車載撮像装置の構成を示す縦断面図である。本実施形態 に係る車載撮像装置21が前述の図2および図3に示す 車載撮像装置1と実質的に異なる点は、後述する遮光板 (遮光手段) 23を設けた点のみであり、対応する部分 には同一の参照符号を付し、重複する説明を省略する。 【0015】この車載撮像装置21では、ケース11内 における結像レンズ15bの入射面側において、プリズ ム13のプリズム側面13L,13Rによって反射され て結像レンズ15bに入射する左右の撮像領域からの各 光17L, 17Rの光路と、結像レンズ15bに入射す る下側の撮像領域からの光17Dの光路とを分割する遮 光板23が設けられている。本実施形態では、遮光板2 3はプリズム13の下面13a(あるいは上面13b) に固着されて設置されている。すなわち、遮光板23 は、結像レンズ15bの入射面側において、左右の撮像 領域を撮像するための撮像視野角Caと、下側の撮像領 域を撮像するための撮像視野角Cbとの間を上下に仕切 るようにして配設されている。

【0016】そして、このような構成により、撮像素子15aの受光面上における左右の撮像領域からの光17L,17Rの入射領域と、下方の撮像領域からの光17Dの入射領域との従来のような重複を効果的に抑制することができるようになっている。

【0017】以上のように、本実施形態によれば、本実施形態に係る遮光板23により、撮像素子15aの受光面上における左右の撮像領域からの光17L,17Rと下側の撮像領域からの光17Dとの混じり合いを効果的に抑制でき、画質の向上が図れる。

【0018】また、遮光板23のサイズおよび形状を調節することにより、左右の撮像領域からの光17L,17Rの光路と、下側の撮像領域からの光17Dの光路とを確実に分割することができる。

【0019】なお、本実施形態の変形例として、遮光板23を設ける代わりに、プリズム13の下面13aまたは上面13bに遮光膜を設けてもよい。これによって、プリズム13と別個に遮光板21を設ける場合に比して部品点数および組立工数等の削減が図れる。

[0020]

【発明の効果】請求項1に記載の発明によれば、結像レンズの入射面側において、プリズムによって反射されて結像レンズに入射する第1および第2の撮像領域からの各光の光路と、結像レンズに入射する第3の撮像領域からの光の光路とを分割する遮光手段が設けられているため、この遮光手段により、撮像素子の受光面上における左右の撮像領域からの光と下または上側の撮像領域からの光との混じり合いを効果的に抑制でき、画質の向上が図れる。

(4)

【0021】 請求項2に記載の発明によれば、遮光板のサイズおよび形状を調節することにより、左右の撮像領域からの光の光路と、下または上側の撮像領域からの光の光路とを確実に分割することができる。

【0022】 請求項3に記載の発明によれば、プリズムの下面または上面に設けられた遮光膜によって遮光手段が構成されるため、プリズムと別個に遮光板を設ける場合に比して部品点数および組立工数等の削減が図れる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の一実施形態に係る車載撮像装置の構成 10 を示す縦断面図である。

【図2】従来の車戦撮像装置等の構成を示す横断面図である。

【図3】図2の車載撮像装置の構成を示す縦断面図である。

【符号の説明】

7 表示装置

11 ケース

13 プリズム

13L, 13R プリズム側面

15a 撮像素子

15b 結像レンズ

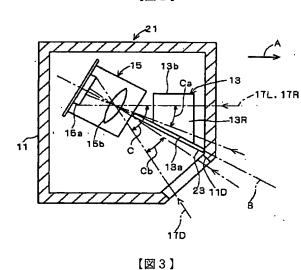
17L, 17R, 17D 光

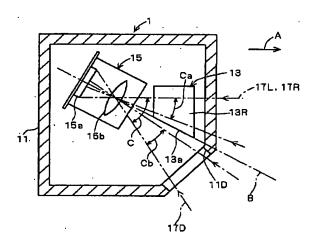
21 車載撮像装置

23 遮光板

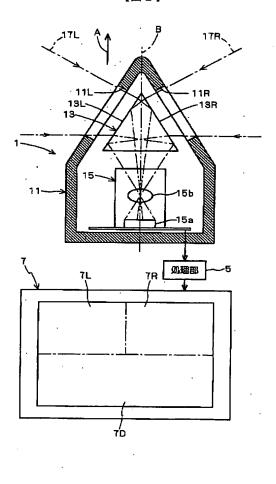
A 正面方向

【図1】





【図2】



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